



OCTOBER 5, 2007 – OCTOBER 18, 2007

Bringing You Good News

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 6

Timely Tidbits ...**RHS Homecoming**

The Romulus school district is encouraging community members of all ages to come out for Romulus High School's Homecoming parade/game on Friday, October 5. For details, see page 3.

Halloween Happenings

Check out our list of some of the area's most spooktacular haunted houses, monster mazes, and more on page 3.

Brownstown Adds Two Pet Programs

Brownstown Township Supervisor Arthur Wright has announced that two new programs will be added to the Township Web site: one for lost-and-found pets, another for an adopt-a-pet service featuring animals from the Township's shelter. The programs will also disseminate information via Comcast channel 12.

Said Wright, "People have pets which are considered a part of their family, and this service will enable the Township to post photographs of lost pets in order to assist in their recovery."

For more information, please visit www.brownstown-mi.org, or contact the Supervisor's Office by calling 734-675-0071 or e-mailing angie@brownstown-mi.org.

CUMC Dinner Benefit

Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive, Romulus) will host a roast-beef dinner fundraiser on Saturday, October 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults; \$4 for ages 6–12. Carry-out available. Call 734-941-0736.

Council To Consider Electronic Packets

The Romulus City Council will hold its second study session regarding the possibility of using electronic (as opposed to paper) information packets for its meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, October 8, at City Hall (11111 Wayne Road, at Goddard).

The public is welcome. □

Detroit Metro Airport Opens New, Expanded Cell Phone Waiting Lot for North End



CELL PHONE NORTH LOT

Metro Airport Area



The new cell phone waiting lot gives motorists picking up arrivals a better option than circling airport roadways.

Motorists picking-up an arriving passenger at Detroit Metro Airport's Smith Terminal now have a new, expanded cell phone waiting area. The new, 37-space lot replaces the current waiting area along the curb of Rogell Drive, as that roadway will be rerouted as part of the next phase of development for the airport's new North Terminal.

Cell phone waiting lots, which have become popular at airports across the country, were first introduced at Detroit Metro Airport in 2006. These waiting areas help alleviate vehicle congestion at the arrivals curb by providing a safe and free spot for motorists to await a call from their arriving parties, indicating that they are at the curb with their luggage and ready for pickup.

The cell phone lot also reduces the need for motorists to circle airport roadways while waiting for passengers who may arrive at the curbside later than expected.

"Our cell phone waiting areas have

been very popular since day one," said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson. "Especially given heightened security, which causes our airport police to be ever more vigilant in keeping traffic moving at the curb front, this new cell phone lot will give even more motorists a better option than circling airport roadways."

The new cell phone waiting lot is located adjacent to the on-airport rental car facilities off East Service Drive near the intersection with Lucas Drive. To access the new lot, drivers approaching the airport from I-94 should follow signs to 'Rental Car Return,' exiting at Middlebelt Road (exit 199) and then turning right onto Lucas Drive. Follow Lucas Drive until it ends at East Service Drive and turn left; the lot entrance will then be on the right.

Those approaching the airport from the south (I-275/Eureka Road), or who have already made one pass at the arrivals curb, should proceed north

through the airport on Dingell Drive and follow signs to 'Rental Car Return' and 'North Cell Phone Lot.'

The cell phone waiting lot is in an area that causes no security concerns, according to the WCAA; however, motorists must remain in their vehicles. Unattended vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

"We still recommend that the best way to meet an arriving passenger is to park in a short-term lot and meet your party in the bag claim," said Robinson. "However, many people simply drive out to the airport and try to sit at the arrivals curb at the time the flight is due to arrive."

Robinson added, "The new north cell phone waiting lot will not only accommodate more customers, but its location also provides a convenient waiting area for motorists who are approaching the airport from I-94 and who are meeting arriving passengers at any of the airport's three terminals." □

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Family Thanks Romulus Firefighters, Neighbors

To the Editor:

On Saturday, September 22, 2007, my dad's life was turned upside down. His garage and home caught fire.

Many memories were lost that night, but more could have been if it were not for the quick response of the Romulus Fire Department. My family and I want to express our personal thanks to all the firefighters who were there to save the majority of the house and its contents.

Special thanks to Pete Bergeron and Captain "Dusty" Sperry, who were the first firefighters to respond to the scene, and to Neil Allgood, who took the time, after the fire was out, to explain everything to my family and answer all our questions.

Thanks, too, to Deputy Chief Phil Wagner for his kind words and help, which were comforting to my family.

We would also like to thank all the other firefighters and EMS personnel who were on the scene, but whose names we do not know. Many of us take firefighters for granted. They have a dangerous job, and we feel that they do not receive the recognition they truly deserve. Thank you to each one of you who were there that night.

Finally, I want to take this opportu-

nity to thank the neighbors for all the support and help you have given to my dad and our family during this time. It will be a long recovery process, and we could not do it without all of you.

Sincerely,

Kim Lawrence (on behalf of the Polianchick family)

Thanks ... from One Dispatcher to Another

To the Editor:

I am a dispatcher for Sumpter Township. I have worked for Sumpter and Central Dispatch Network since 2002. I always knew that I had a huge responsibility on my shoulders. There have been many nights that I have gone home wondering if I got a particular person help on time, or just how he/she was doing. That crying relative on the other end of the phone can really touch your heart.

On Sunday, September 2, I was that crying relative. I dialed 9-1-1 from my Huron Township residence and (since Sumpter and Huron are neighboring communities) reached a dispatcher I knew: Karen Stackpoole.

I said, "Karen, my husband is having chest pain and difficulty breathing." She told me she would send rescue. Her calm, reassuring voice helped me so much.

Karen went above and beyond the call of duty. She also called my daughter, who was working dispatch in Sumpter, and kept her abreast of events until her relief arrived. She told her when rescue was out and what hospital we were going to. Sometime in between, she called me back to see if I was doing okay. She was a godsend to my family.

I will never forget Karen's warm, calm, caring voice on the other end of that phone. I only hope that I, as a dispatcher, leave that impression on people who call me.

The fire and rescue people who helped us were great, as well. They were prompt, professional, and very helpful. But it was that first voice on the phone that helped me stay calm through everything — my husband's transportation to Heritage Hospital, his diagnosis of 100% blockage in his right coronary artery, and his transfer to Oakwood main via critical care ambulance, during which he was prepped for a stent implant.

I will always remember and be eternally grateful to Karen Stackpoole, who came to my family's aid and also gave me a new insight into my job. She was the voice of an angel on the other end of that 9-1-1 call.

Sincerely,
Sue DuFresne □

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Business Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

The little paper is published biweekly by Nite-Lite Graphics, P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038.

Nite-Lite Graphics and *the little paper* are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

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Area's Halloween Happenings Offer Frightfully Good Fun

This sampling of the area's Halloween season events runs the gamut from family fun to heart-stopping horror. (Note: Some attractions are offered on a weather-permitting basis, and many are not suitable for young children. If in doubt, call ahead to check.)

HAUNTED HILL ACRES (Belleville)

Features a haunted hayride, pirate ship, haunted house, and pyramid maze.

- Admission: varies per event, package, or group
- Dates: every Thurs.-Sun. in Oct.
- Hours: ticket office opens at 7 p.m.
- Location: 23740 Carleton West Road
- Information: 734-753-5523, 734-652-7601, or www.hauntedhillacres.com

HAUNTED HAYRIDES & CORN MAZE (Belleville)

The Wayne County Fair Association's holiday program features a spook-tacular hayride through the fairgrounds' 39 acres and a 14-acre, double-planted corn maze (no rows) that's "nonhaunted" on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. New this year: "Crated Monster," "Meat Market," "Phone Booth," and more!

- Admission: hayrides - \$10 for ages 11 and up/\$5 for ages 6-10/ free for ages 5 and under; corn maze - \$5 for ages 5 and over/\$3 for ages 4 and under
- Dates/Hours: hayrides - Oct. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, & 26-27, 7-11 p.m.; corn maze - Oct. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, & 27-28, 12-6 p.m.
- Location: Wayne County Fairgrounds (10871 Quirk Road)
- Information: 734-697-7002 or www.waynecountyfair.net

HALLOWE'EN IN GREENFIELD VILLAGE (Dearborn)

Circa 1900-style family fun features paths lit by 800 hand-carved jack-o'-lanterns, dozens of elaborately costumed creatures, and 11 sweets-and-treats stations where goblins hand out goodies.

- Admission: member adults & kids, \$10; nonmember adults & kids, \$12; kids 2 & under, free
- Dates: Oct. 12-14, 19-21, & 26-28
- Hours: entry timed at half-hour intervals from 6:30-9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6:30-8 p.m. Sun.
- Location: corner of Village Road and Oakwood Boulevard (west of Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Avenue)
- Information: 313-982-6001 or www.hfmvg.org

SCAREGROUNDS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS (Detroit)

Features a haunted house, carnival rides, pumpkin patch, live entertainment, concession food, and more.

- Admission: \$13 (includes free, lighted, secure parking)
- Dates: every night from Oct. 12-31
- Hours: Sun.-Thurs., 7-11 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.-midnight
- Location: Michigan State Fairgrounds (Woodward entrance)

HAUNTED WINERY (Farmington)

- Ghoulish creatures haunt 25 rooms!
- Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children under 52 inches (not recommended for young children); "family night" rates (\$20 for 2 adults & 2 kids) on Thurs. & Sun.
 - Dates: Oct. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, & 26-30
 - Hours: Sun.-Tues., 7-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.-midnight
 - Location: 31505 Grand River (just west of Orchard Lake Road)
 - Information: 248-477-8833 or www.thehauntedwinery.com

CARN-EVIL OF FEAR (Flat Rock)

A haunted wagon ride ends at a creepy destination: 40 acres of sheer terror! Also featured: carnival games, face-painting, novelties, and concession booths.

- Admission: \$10 per person; \$6 for kids under 12 (not recommended for small children); group rates for 15 or more
- Dates: Oct. 19-20 & 26-27
- Hours: 8-11 p.m.
- Location: back lot at 23984 Gibraltar Road (between I-75 and Telegraph)
- Information: 734-782-0563

THE LAB (Grosse Ile)

Something went terribly wrong in a secret, government-funded research lab!

- Admission: \$12
- Dates: Oct. 5-7, 12-14, 18-21, 25-28, & 31
- Hours: Sun., Wed., & Thurs., 7-11 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.-midnight
- Location: 26505 Hornet
- Information: 586-774-4482 or www.thelabhaunt.com

PHANTOM FOREST HAYRIDES (Grosse Ile)

Family fun event includes hayrides through haunted woods plus cider & donuts by a bonfire.

- Admission: \$8 per person; \$5 for kids 5 & under
- Dates: Oct. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, & 26-30
- Hours: Fri.-Sat., 7-11 p.m.; Sun., 7-10 p.m.
- Location: Westcroft Gardens (21803 West River Road)
- Information: 734-676-2444

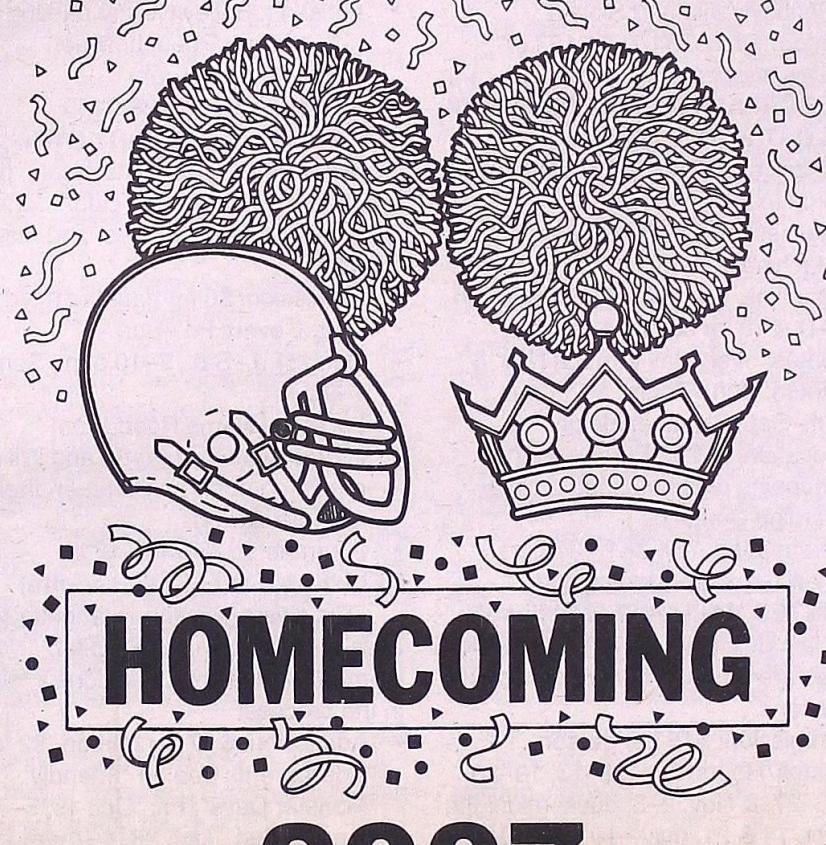
REALM OF HAUNTED MINDS (Romulus)

Come and experience the paranormal ... if you dare!

- Admission: \$10 per person

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ROMULUS HIGH SCHOOL



2007

Friday, October 5th Homecoming Parade: 5 p.m.

(From City Hall, the parade will progress from Bibbins to Gabriel, to Goddard, to Neville, to Ozga, to Romulus Middle School.)

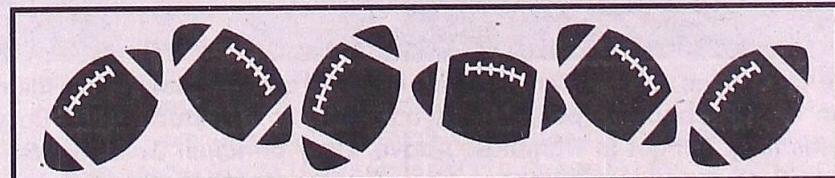
See You There!

Homecoming Game: 7 p.m.

Ypsilanti High School vs. Romulus
at Romulus Middle School

(Wick Road at Ozga • Romulus, MI)

Good Luck, Eagles!



Halloween Happenings

continued from page 3

- Dates: Oct. 5–6, 12–13, 19–20, 26–27, & 29–30
- Hours: 7–10 p.m.
- Location: Huron Turkey Farm (18910 Merriman Road, between Pennsylvania and Sibley)
- Information: 734-753-9187 or www.myspace.com/huronturkeyfarm

THE SCREAM MACHINE/CARNEVIL OF LOST SOULS (Taylor)

Highlights include "The Hellevator": a portal to the unknown!

- Admission: \$12 for Scream Machine; \$16 for combo Scream Machine/Carnevile of Lost Souls in 3-D (\$10 for combo Nov. 1–4)
- Dates: every day through Nov. 4
- Hours: Sun.–Thurs., 7–11 p.m.; Fri.–Sat., 7 p.m.–midnight
- Location: 21207 Eureka (in the shopping plaza next to Gibraltar Trading Center)
- Information: 734-341-3379 or www.fearscapestudios.com

HAUNTED HALLOWS (Westland)

Hayrides, a fire pit, and concession stands are among the acres of spooky attractions.

- Admission: \$15 per person
- Dates/Hours: Oct. 12–13, 19–20, 26–27, & Nov. 2–3, dusk–midnight; Oct. 14 & 21, dusk–10 p.m.; Oct. 28–30, dusk–11 p.m.
- Location: 6440 Hix Road (between Ford & Warren)
- Information: 734-751-4312 or www.haunted-hallows.com

HAUNTED HOUSE (Westland)

This sixth annual event is sponsored by the Westland Jaycees.

- Admission: \$8 for adults; \$6 for children 12 and under
- Dates: Oct. 12–13, 19–20, & 24–30
- Hours: Sun.–Thurs., 7–10 p.m.; Fri.–Sat., 7 p.m.–midnight
- Location: Bailey Center parking lot (36651 Ford Road, between Wayne & Newburgh)
- Information: 734-226-0400

THE PUMPKIN FACTORY (Willis)

Features haunted hayrides, plus thousands of pumpkins, cider, donuts, caramel apples, costumes, and masks for sale.

- Admission: \$6 for haunted hayride
- Dates: every Fri.–Sun.
- Hours: Fri.–Sat., 7–10 p.m.; Sun., 7–9 p.m.
- Location: Harris Road (from intersection of Sumpter and Willis roads, go north on Sumpter, then west on Harris)
- Information: 734-461-1835

HELL'S HOSPITAL (Wyandotte)

The award-winning Wyandotte Jaycees took over an old hospital. ... and learned a whole new definition for "sick" in the process!

- Admission: \$10 per person (\$2 for kids/parents free on "Friendly Monster Days": Fri., Oct. 19, 5–7 p.m., & Sun., Oct. 28, 4–7 p.m.)
- Dates: Oct. 6–7, 11–14, 18–21, & 25–31
- Hours: Sun.–Thurs., 7–10 p.m.; Fri.–Sat., 7 p.m.–midnight
- Location: corner of Biddle & Spruce
- Information: 734-284-FUN1 or 734-444-4902 □

Kerr Donates School Supplies to Cory



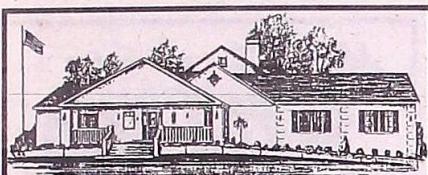
The employees of Kerr Manufacturing donated over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies (pencils, crayons, etc.) to the students of Cory Elementary School in Romulus. Above, Cory principal Dorothy West (center) accepted the donations from Theresa Jacek (left) and Felane Turner of Kerr.

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Guest Commentary

A Balanced Budget Requires a BALANCED Solution

By State Senator Ray Basham
(D-Taylor), 8th District

After months of intense budget negotiations and just under five hours into a partial government shutdown, the state legislature voted early Monday morning for a comprehensive plan to prevent massive cuts to health care, education, and public safety, and allow all state services to resume. In the face of Michigan's worst fiscal crisis in a generation, my colleagues and I had to choose between increasing revenues as a means of investing in our economic revitalization or making devastating cuts to the state programs that families like yours rely on.

For nearly eight months, Senate Democrats have fought for a comprehensive solution to our budget crisis. Because of the magnitude of our deficit, it was clear that the solution would require a mix of difficult cuts, significant government reforms, and new revenues, and the balanced plan that finally came to fruition this week achieves just that without using the onetime fixes we have relied on in the past.

The Legislature is expected to enact

nearly \$440 million in budget cuts for fiscal year 2008 as part of the bipartisan budget plan reached this week. While this agreement prevents massive cuts to essential services that would've been threatened by a "cuts-only" solution, we still face tough choices about the budget, as these cuts will be identified in the coming weeks. None of these cuts will be easy, but these desperate times demand drastic measures.

In addition to adjusting what the state pays for, we legislators have also agreed to government reforms that will refine how the State of Michigan spends its money. These include an end to public employee double-dipping on state pensions and payrolls, and requiring all schools in an intermediate school district to adopt a common calendar. These reforms will also create incentives for healthy behavior for Medicaid recipients and lower co-pays for people who quit smoking and stay in shape. Additionally, the Legislature created a Government Efficiency Committee to identify additional reforms.

The final component of a solution to our state budget crisis is the raising of

new revenue. We faced a devastating deficit that we couldn't meet with cuts and reforms alone. The final budget deal included a restoration of the state's personal income tax rate to 4.35 percent, slightly lower than the rate for most of the 1990s. It also expanded the state's sales tax to a number of high-end discretionary services like interior design, landscaping, and personal care services such as massages and manicures. The combination of taxes is expected to cost the average person approximately \$1 per week.

During these trying economic times, it was a difficult decision to make to increase revenues for the state. I realize how many families throughout the state are struggling right now, which is why we worked to minimize the impact this budget solution would have on taxpayers. But while nobody likes to see their taxes increase, nobody likes the idea of unpatrolled neighborhoods, empty firehouses, or overcrowded and understaffed schools and hospitals, either. We acted on the courage of our convictions and the need to find a solution to

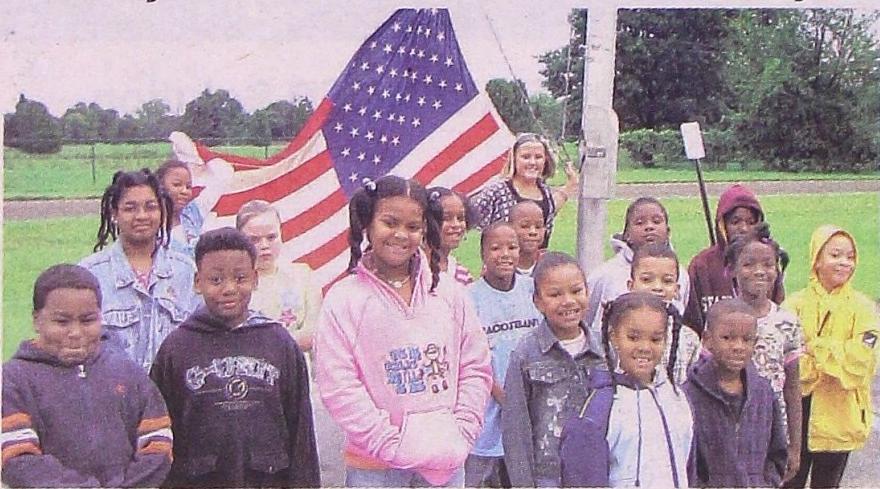
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Ribbon-cutting Celebrates Opening of Living Rock Church



On September 26, 2007, Reverend Frank Howard and Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert (center, left and right) were joined by officials from the City of Romulus and the Romulus Community Schools, representatives of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce and the American Progressive Association, and Romulus Ministerial Association members (among others) for a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the official opening of the new Living Rock Church. Located at 33200 Ecorse Road, between Wayne and Merriman roads, Living Rock is a nondenominational church that welcomes everyone for Sunday Bible study (10 a.m.) and services (11 a.m. and 6 p.m.), as well as other classes and events. For more information, call the church at 734-641-4321.

Cory School Observes Patriot Day



The students and staff of Cory Elementary School in Romulus came together in a ceremony the morning of September 11, 2007, to pay tribute to the victims of the 9-11 tragedy six years before. Students recited the Pledge of Allegiance while the flag was raised to half-staff.

Ground Broken for Greenways Project



Groundbreaking recently took place for the final phase of the Downriver Linked Greenways project in Brownstown Township. When completed, it will connect Lake Erie Metropark to Flat Rock via a belt of trails intended for nonmotorized, recreational use. Pictured are: (from left) Brownstown Township Recreation Department Director Mark Maxe, Trustees Suzanne Harris and Ed Neal; Recreation Commissioners Helen St. Louis and Roland Leal, Supervisor Art Wright, and Recreation Commission Chairman Jim Bryan; Rockwood Mayor Phil Smalley; Gibraltar Councilman Ed Manion; and Brownstown Trustee Al Mann.

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Taylor Leads Michigan in Utilizing New Road Reconstruction Technology



Mayor Cameron Priebe (eighth from right) was joined by officials from the City of Taylor, Wayne County, and the State of Michigan for the launch of the first asphalt reclamation road resurfacing project in Michigan.

Mayor Cameron Priebe and City of Taylor officials say they're proud, once again, to be at the forefront of innovation – this time in regard to new technology that was used for the recent Pardee Road reconstruction project.

The technology, called "Full Depth Reclamation Using Foamed Asphalt," has been utilized in 35 states. It was introduced for the first time in Michigan when Taylor used it to reconstruct Pardee north of Ecorse Road to Beverly.

Members of the public and officials from Wayne County and the State of Michigan attended the kickoff demon-

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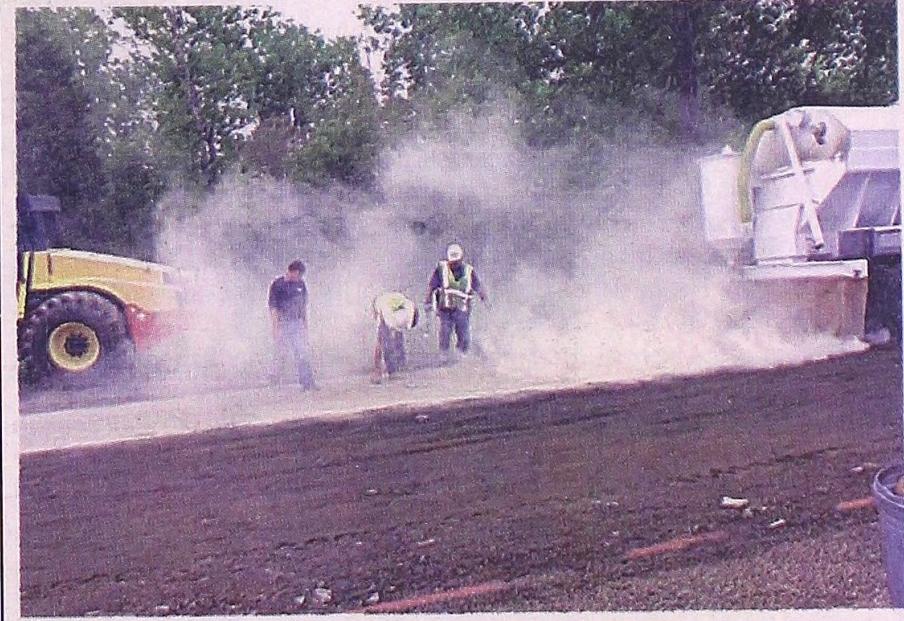
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stration of the road resurfacing project on September 10.

Renee Pipis of RCP Associates, working with project contractor Ten Mile Creek Excavation, said the process uses a reclamation technology that is able to penetrate deep into the foundation of the existing road, recycle the materials that are already there, and mix in additional materials (such as aggregate, stone, or concrete) as needed. The result is a very smooth reconstruction of the road.

Mayor Priebe said the process meets the City of Taylor's commitment to climate protection through the reuse of materials.

"We are very pleased that Mayor Cameron Priebe and City of Taylor officials have the foresight to utilize an innovative technology that produces a high quality road, using recycled materials, at about half the cost of traditional roads," said Pipis. "It is a cost-saving and effective process." □



Crews resurfaced Pardee Road in Taylor using an innovative reclamation technology that utilizes recycled material from the original road.

Community Calendar

- Taylor Fall Fest** – The annual Taylor Fall Fest will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 6, at Heritage Park (12111 Pardee). Activities and attractions will include free hayrides, free pumpkin decorating, pumpkin-carving demonstrations, and a variety of fall-themed offerings from vendors. There will also be plenty to eat and drink. Dip your own caramel apples for only \$1; enjoy a donut-and-cider combo for \$1; or get a hotdog, chips, and pop for \$3. Children's attractions will be available for \$1 per ride or \$5 for an all-day wristband. Craft-making mini-classes will also be offered for \$1.
- St. Aloysius Church Rededication** – The St. Aloysius parish is inviting the public to attend the rededication of its newly renovated church on Sunday, October 7, during the 11 a.m. Liturgy. Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, will be the chief celebrant. Afterward, everyone is welcome to stop in at the Parish Activity Center to meet the Cardinal and enjoy refreshments. St. Aloysius Catholic Church is located at 37200 Neville Street in Romulus. For more information, call 734-941-5056.
- "Second Monday" Book Club** – Meetings of the Romulus Public Library's Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required; just read the suggested book, then drop in. Books planned for discussion include *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver (October 8), *On Writing: A Memoir of the Kraft* by Stephen King (November 12), and *Evensong* by Gail Godwin (December 10). Call 734-942-7589 for info.
- "Embracing a Loved One with Dementia"** – Get facts and insights into dealing with loved ones who have dementia or Alzheimer's disease when you attend this seminar, to be held at the Romulus Public Library on Thursday, October 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The program will include a 30-minute presentation and a 40-minute film documenting a daughter's heartfelt journey with her Alzheimer's-patient mother. For more information, call the library (734-942-7589) or the presenter, Arbor Hospice & Home Care community development officer Carol Crumpton (734-486-4060).
- Sweet Harvest** – The Taylor Conservatory Foundation is inviting the public to attend Sweet Harvest: A Celebration of Chocolate, Wine, and Romance. The event – which will feature scrumptious desserts, gourmet chocolates, wine, specialty coffees, and light hors d'oeuvres, as well as a silent auction, truffle raffle, and "sweet-treat roulette" – will be held at Crystal Gardens Banquet Center on Wednesday, October 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$50 per ticket; \$35 of that amount is tax deductible. Call 888-383-4108.
- Rummage Sale** – Whispering Willows Co-op (Wayne Road south of Goddard, Romulus) will host its annual rummage sale on Thursday, October 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, October 20, from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Book Discussion Group** – Join the Taylor Community Library's book club for relaxed discussion and light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. one Wednesday each month. Titles selected for future meetings include *A Stronger Kinship: One Town's Extraordinary Story of Hope and Faith* by Anna-Lisa Cox (October 24). The library is located at 12303 Pardee. Call 734-287-4840.
- Halloweekend at Cedar Point** – The Romulus Recreation Department is offering a trip to Cedar Point on Saturday, October 27. Bus will depart from the Recreation Center (11189 Shook Road) promptly at 2 p.m., and will return approximately 12 hours later. Ages 14 and up with parental permission slips may attend without a guardian; children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$55. Sign up by October 19 at 6 p.m. Call 734-941-8665.
- Itch to Stitch** – The knitting group "Itch to Stitch" brings beginners together with people experienced in the craft to share ideas, tips, patterns, and instruction. The next meeting will be held at the Taylor Community Library (12303 Pardee) on Tuesday, October 30.
- Events at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village** – To find out more about these upcoming events at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, call 313-982-6001 or visit www.TheHenryFord.org: **Fall Season Farmers Market** (October 6, Greenfield Village) and **Greenfield Village Holiday Homes Tour** (November 23–25, November 30–December 2, and December 7–9, 14–16, 21–23, and 28–30).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net; or FAX it to 734-992-2052.

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Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

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Sassy Seniors

For more information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate senior-citizen center.

Romulus

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Flu Shots

Although the Center has not yet set a date for its annual "flu shot" day, seniors who call and leave their name and telephone number will be notified when the vaccine comes in. The shot is free if you have Medicare Part B; all others will pay \$25.

Special Trips

The Romulus Senior Center invites local senior citizens to sign up for one or more of the following bus tours:

- **Windsor Raceway Special** (November 13; \$2),
- **Geritol Follies Christmas Show** (November 14; \$92),
- **Grand Mountaineer** (November 18–20; \$170),
- **Bay Mills** (November 25–26; \$120),
- **Niagara Falls** (December 3–4; \$350),
- **Celebrate the New Year at Myrtle Beach** (December 28–January 3; \$799),
- **Gulf Getaway (St. Pete Beach, FL)** (January 12–February 2; \$1,799),
- **San Francisco/California Coast** (April 13–20; \$2,459), and
- **Cape May** (May 18–24; \$899).

Club #1

Upcoming meetings of Club #1 (all at 11 a.m.) include:

- October 9 (meeting; games; bag lunch),
- October 16 (Erie Orchard; Gena's Restaurant), and
- October 30 (meeting; games; bag lunch)

New faces are welcome!

Red Hatters Throw Halloween Party

The Romulus Red Hat Society will throw a Halloween party at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30. Bring a dish to share, and dress up (for a costume contest) if you dare!

Learn more about the event at the Red Hat Society's next meeting, set for Friday, October 19. (Call for time.)

Halloween Luncheon

The Center's Halloween luncheon – set for Friday, October 26, at 1 p.m. – will feature a costume contest, with prizes awarded for the best entry in each of three categories: "most colorful," "funniest," and "favorite."

The day's menu: "ghoulish" meatballs, "ghostly" mashed potatoes and gravy, "zombie" mixed vegetables, and "witches' brew" beverage.

Cost is \$4. Seating is limited; sign up in advance.

"Celebrity" Bingo

Local dignitaries who will be calling Bingo this month include:

- Mayor Alan R. Lambert (October 10),
- Jackie Ochalek (October 17),
- 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green (October 24), and
- City Councilman John Barden (October 31).

All games begin at 1 p.m.

Lunch Out

The Senior Center van will be traveling to the Cracker Barrel on October 12 and Country Buffet on October 22. Both trips depart at 11:30 a.m. Sign up at the Center if you would like to attend.

Jewelry Class

Maria Lambert makes creating beautiful jewelry both fun and easy in this one-afternoon class, to be held at the Center at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17. A \$10 cost covers materials.

Scrapbooking/Card-making

Scrapbers of all skill levels are invited to take part in the Center's next class, set for 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 18. Call for details.

Regular Programs

Be sure to check out these free or low-cost weekly programs that are offered at the Romulus Senior Center:

- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.),
- chair exercise (Fridays, call for time).

Everyone is welcome!

Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, October 15, beginning at 10 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this discount-rate program, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointments.

Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson will be at the Center on Wednesday, October 10, to give free legal advice to Romulus senior citizens.

As always, both walk-ins and callers are welcome.

Blood Pressure

Drop by the Center at noon on Wednesday, October 10, for a free blood-pressure check. It's an easy way to keep an eye on an important aspect of your health.

Men's Club

The Senior Center is exploring the possibility of forming a men's club. If interested, stop in or call and ask for Rose.

Hot Lunches

Don't forget that the Romulus Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for a suggested donation of only \$2.25. This month's menu includes pork chops, roast beef, barbecue chicken, stuffed peppers, meatloaf, lasagna, and more.

Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation.

Taylor

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following seniors for winning competitions at the Senior Day program:

- Ken Hubbell (egg toss)
- Barbara Kotarsky (frisbee toss)
- Joe McDonagh (frisbee toss)
- Evelyn Myers (egg toss)
- Frank Plichta (water-balloon toss)
- Mary Sobran (water-balloon toss)
- Fran White (closest to pin)
- Pat Woolley (closest to pin)

Reverse Mortgages

Kathleen Impastato of Wells Fargo will be at the Center at 11 a.m. on Monday, October 29, to give a presentation on FHA government reverse mortgages. Q&A will follow. Make your reservation by Friday, October 26.

Automobile Hall of Fame

See the heroes of the auto industry! Interactive exhibits, historic artifacts, and amazing stories that highlight the achievements of the industry's most remarkable figures make for a visit that is educational and unforgettable.

The bus will depart at 10:30 a.m., and will stop at Sabina's (Polish/American food) before returning to the Center at about 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$6 plus the price of food.

Craft 2000

The Ford Center bus will depart for "Craft 2000" at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, October 8. Lunch at the Flat Rock Café and ice-cream at Independent Dairy will follow. Cost is \$2 plus the price of food. Preregister at the Center.

Craft Day

On the first Thursday of each month, local seniors who have a craft project that they would like to finish can come to the Center and spend the day working on it in the company of like-minded friends – old and new! Next date: November 1. Call for details.

Wood-carvers Meet

The wood-carvers group meets at the Center each Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. Seniors interested in taking up this hobby – either for the first time, or again – is welcome to stop by and see what the group is all about.

Continental Breakfast #1

The Ford Center will be serving a free continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, October 19, courtesy of American House. Sign up in the office by October 14 if you would like to attend.

Continental Breakfast #2

Rivergate skilled nursing facility will be providing a complimentary continental breakfast at the Center from 9 to 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 30. Sign up by October 29 if you would like to attend.

Check Your Blood Pressure

Stop in at the Center between 8:30 and 11 a.m. on October 4, 18, and/or 25 for a free blood-pressure check.

Sock It To 'Em!

Throughout October, RSVP is collecting new socks of all sizes, colors, and patterns for men, women, and children. (Colorful socks for the kids are especially appreciated!) Just drop them off in the "Sox Box" at the Center anytime this month.

Birthday Bash!

This month's birthday bash will be held on Thursday, October 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. The Center provides cake, ice cream, and entertainment (great music and karaoke); all you have to do is show up ready for fun! RSVP by calling the Center no later than October 15.

Must be at least 55 years old to attend. No children, please!

The Ford Senior Center would like to thank Edna Moss and Rivergate Complex for donating beautiful cakes for its birthday parties.

Halloween Party

Musical entertainment by Mike Wolverton and a catered dinner by Halina's will highlight the Taylor Center's upcoming Halloween Party, set for Thursday, October 25, from 2 to 5 p.m. Be sure to wear a costume! Tickets are \$12. Sign up at the Center.

Flu/Pneumonia Shots!

Kroger pharmacy will be at the Ford Senior Center to administer flu and pneumonia shots on Wednesday, October 10, from 9 a.m. to noon. To make an appointment, call 313-291-7740. Only a limited number of shots will be available, so those without appointments will be turned away at the door.

Cost for people without Medicare is \$25 for flu shots, \$35 for pneumonia. □

Obituaries

Bernice Wanda Bell

Bernice Wanda Bell of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on Monday, October 1, 2007, at the age of 88.

The native of Detroit, Michigan was born to Thomas and Anna (Wielczewski) Siemion on Tuesday, September 16, 1919.

Bernice – a former resident of Inkster, Michigan (30 years) and Romulus, Michigan (8 years) – enjoyed playing catch with her sons, embroidering baby blankets for all her grandchildren, and doing word-search puzzles. She loved to go for car rides on Saturdays, and break-fasted faithfully at 9 a.m. each day at the Big Boy restaurant in Belleville.

Surviving Bernice are her 4 sons, Charles Bell (Wayne, MI), Donald (Glenda) Bell (TX), Thomas (Tilly) Bell (TX), and Eugene (Linda) Bell

(MN); 2 daughters, Evelyn Hughes and Margaret Vall (both of Belleville); 15 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Helen Fisher (Dearborn Heights, MI).

Among those who predeceased her were her parents; her husband, Charles Junior Bell (who passed away on May 12, 1984); a brother, a sister, a granddaughter, and 2 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, October 3, at the David C. Brown Funeral Home (Belleville), with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating. Interment was at Glen Eden Cemetery (Livonia, MI).

Memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Frank Murphy

Frank Murphy of Westland, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, September 20, 2007, at the age of 63.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on Tuesday, April 11, 1944.

Frank – a Vietnam-era veteran of the United States Navy – was a graduate of Ferris State College (Big Rapids, MI) and the Dale Carnegie sales training program. He was instrumental in forming the first chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, a fraternity on the campus of Ferris State. He was employed as a graphic artist.

Surviving Frank are his mother, Ruth H. (Posey) Murphy (Westland); a brother, Robert II (Neila) Murphy (Xenia, OH); 4 sisters, Christine Murphy (Romulus, MI), Theresa (Rever-

end James D.) Cochran (Ypsilanti, MI), Elsie B. Martin (Detroit), and Henrietta M. Watt (Canton, MI); and other extended family members and friends.

Among those who predeceased her were her father, Robert Murphy, Sr. (who passed away on May 1, 1979), and her brother, Charles Posey.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, September 28, at Pleasant Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church (Belleville, MI), with Reverend Jessie Locke officiating. Interment was at Great Lakes National Cemetery (Holly, MI).

Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). □

AAA Michigan Offers Free Car Checks

Michigan motorists can't avoid winter – it's right around the corner – but they can act now to help ease its effects on their vehicles with a free Winter Car Care maintenance inspection at participating AAA Approved Auto Repair (AAR) facilities statewide.

The inspections – which will run through the month of October – are part of the Auto Club's 2007 Winter Car Care program, now in its 28th year. This is a free public service for all Michigan motorists; AAA membership is not required.

Components inspected by the AAR facilities include battery load and terminals, antifreeze, oil, brake fluid, power-steering fluid, and transmission fluids, belts, hoses, tires, and wiper blades.

The most common deficiencies noted by AAR technicians include old or corroded batteries, worn or damaged wiper blades, clogged air filters, tire pressure and wear, low windshield washer fluid, dirty or low motor oil, and low antifreeze levels. In Michigan, faulty batteries and/or faulty terminal connections cause more car-starting problems than any other factor. Cold weather is brutal on a battery. As the temperature drops, so does the battery's cranking power, so motorists should closely monitor the condition of their vehicle's battery, especially if it's more than two years old.

To find the AAR facility nearest you, please call 1-800-AAA-MICH or visit AAA.com/carcaretips. □

Wedding Bells

Brendalee Finley and Devin Green

Congratulations to Devin Green and Brendalee Finley, who will be married at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (Romulus, MI) on Saturday, October 6, 2007.

Standing up with Devin will be best men Marlon Stokes and Brian Clair, as well as groomsmen Devin Jones and Marcel Bowman.

Brendalee will be attended by matron of honor Tracie Stokes and maid of honor Sharday Harrington, along with bridesmaids J'Nai Fuqua and Crystal Smith, and junior bridesmaid Kayla Finley.

Ricky Finley will be the ring-bearer; Raina Finley, the flower girl; and Nadia, Xenia, and Alyssa Finley, the junior flower girls.

Devin is the son of Donald and Jacqueline Green (Belleville, MI). Brendalee's parents are Michael and Connie Finley (Romulus). □



Brendalee Finley and Devin Green

Drunk-driving Crash Survivor Is Proof of the Power of Good ... and Bad ... Choices

As a two-time member of the National Junior College Athletic Association women's volleyball All-America team, Sarah Panzau knew what it was like to be on top of her game – and on top of the world.

But, somewhere between life as a competitively driven high-school athlete and the early years of college, Panzau began heading down a destructive path. She was trapped in a pattern of making poor choices that would, one day, catch up with her.

That day was August 23, 2003, when Panzau's car – and her life – spun out of control. With a blood-alcohol level nearly four times the legal limit, the 21-year-old decided to drive home drunk, missed a highway exit, and rolled her car four times. Without a seat belt, she was ejected through the rear window of her car, her left arm was torn from her body, and she was thrown onto the roadway.

Ironically, the second vehicle that arrived at the accident scene was an ambulance. After observing the scene and Panzau's seemingly lifeless body with no pulse, members of the emergency team prepared to pronounce her dead. Just before they made the call, Panzau offered a last sign of life: she gasped for air. The trauma team stabilized her, and she was airlifted to a hospital, where she underwent eight and a half hours of emergency surgery.

Panzau was lucky; she survived. But her life was forever changed by the physical and emotional pain caused by the poor decisions she made.

Today, Panzau hopes to help other young people avoid making similar mistakes by sharing her story via presentations like the one she'll be giving at Romulus High School on Tuesday, October 9. The presentation – sponsored by Central Distributors (the Anheuser-Busch wholesaler in Romulus) – will focus on making smart choices, respecting parents, and rising above disabilities.

Bill Ventola, Coordinator of Consumer Awareness and Education at Central Distributors, said his company is proud to support presentations like Panzau's.

"Sarah's powerful and moving message is one of the more effective tools in our ongoing efforts to promote the responsible use of alcohol and zero tolerance of underage drinking," he said. □

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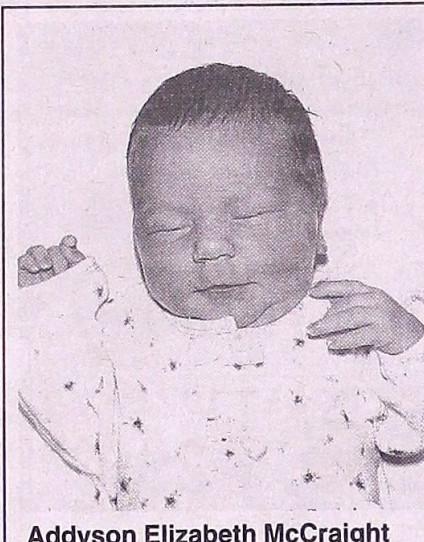
Addyson Elizabeth McCraight

Marshall and Nicole McCraight of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new daughter, Addyson Elizabeth McCraight.

Addyson was born in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (Ann Arbor, MI) at 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2007. She weighed 8 lbs., 2 oz., and measured 19.5 in.

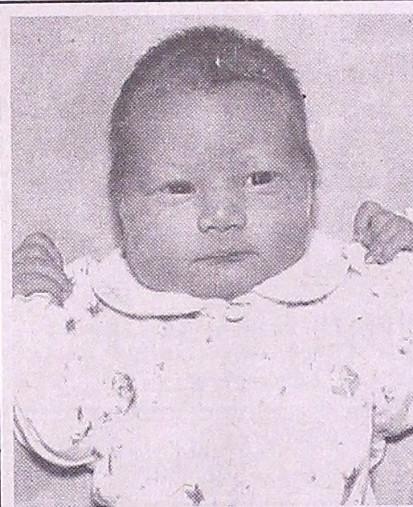
Especially excited about the new arrival were her big brothers, Connor (age 5) and Chandler (3).

Also giving Addyson a warm welcome into the family were her paternal grandparents, Alex "Buck" and Betty McCraight, and her maternal grandparents, Greg and Audrey Laskaska (all of Romulus).

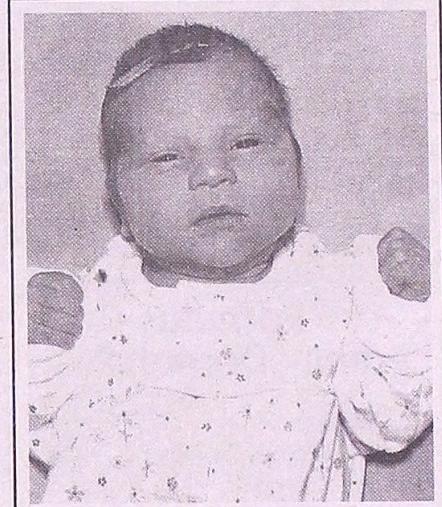


Addyson Elizabeth McCraight

Rachelynn Irene and Rylee Jean Mullins



Rachelynn Irene Mullins



Rylee Jean Mullins

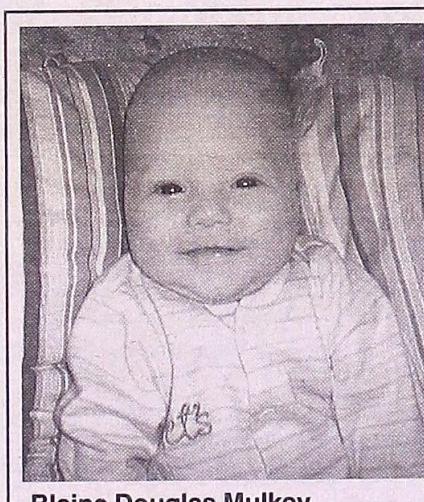
Blaine Douglas Mulkey

Proudly announcing the birth of their second "miracle" baby, Blaine Douglas Mulkey, are Andy and Adreanna Mulkey of Romulus, Michigan.

Blaine – who arrived two months early – was born in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (Ann Arbor, MI) at 12:21 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, 2007, weighing in at 2 lbs., 15 oz., and measuring 15 in. When he came home in mid July, Blaine was up to 5 lbs., 11 oz. in weight, and to 10 lbs., 11 oz. by mid September.

Especially excited about the new arrival was his big sister, Amanda, who was also a "preemie."

Also giving Blaine a warm welcome into the family were his paternal grandparents, Jerry and Christine Mulkey (Pearl River, LA), as well as his mater-



Blaine Douglas Mulkey

Dean and Pamela Mullins of Brownstown Township, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of twin daughters: Rachelynn Irene and Rylee Jean Mullins.

Rachelynn, the older of the two, was born in Oakwood Southshore Medical Center (Trenton, MI) at 2:38 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2007; Rylee followed at 2:41 a.m. Rachelynn weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and measured 20 in., while Rylee

measured 19.75 in. and weighed 6 lbs.

Big brothers Dalton, Gannon, Logan, and Maverick were especially excited about the new arrivals.

Also giving the twins a warm welcome into the family were their paternal grandparents, Vester and Marion Mullins (Flat Rock, MI), and their maternal grandparents, Estill and Jean Frazier (Riverview, MI).

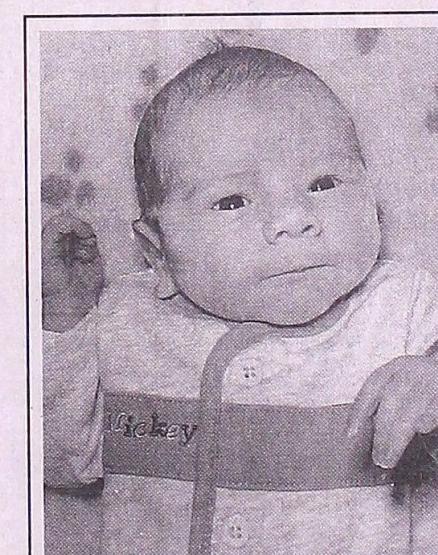
Aaron Dominic Salamay

Proudly announcing the birth of their new son, Aaron Dominic Salamay, are James Salamay and Christina Sills of Romulus, Michigan.

Aaron was born in Oakwood Hospital (Dearborn, MI) at 6:52 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, 2007. He weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz., and measured 21.25 in.

Big sisters Andrea (11 years old), Ava (5 years), and Alicia (19 months) were especially excited about the new arrival.

Also giving Aaron a warm welcome into the family were his paternal grandparents, José and Blanca Salamé (Canton, MI), and his maternal grandparents, Thomas Jones and Cheryl Jones (Westland, MI). □



Aaron Dominic Salamay

Balanced Budget Needs Balanced Solution

continued from page 5

serve the interests of the entire state. It is important that we all take responsibility for resolving this budget situation. State government, the business community, and families are all personally invested in Michigan's future, and we should be willing to financially invest in the future of our state as well.

Although this is not a cause for celebration, the budget agreement does put the state on solid financial footing.

* * *

Editor's note: The "Guest Commentary" column is open to all responsible individuals and spokespersons who would like to share information and/or viewpoints about topics of interest to our readers. For more information, call Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907 or thelittlepaper@comcast.net. □



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